

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7259**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1767

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 30, 2004

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Department of Agriculture.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Crooks

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill establishes a Department of Agriculture. It provides for the Governor to appoint the Commissioner of Agriculture, and it consolidates certain agriculture statutes into one article of the Indiana Code. The bill repeals provisions related to the Commissioner of Agriculture and the consolidated statutes. It makes conforming changes. The bill also makes an appropriation.

**Effective Date:** June 30, 2005; July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary* - The establishment of a state Department of Agriculture and the statutory transfer of various functions and responsibilities to the Department will not necessarily represent a fiscal impact to the state. Any costs that might be incurred from a physical relocation of offices and any expenditures that could be reduced because of operational efficiencies will depend upon administrative actions.

*Background* - Under current statute, the Lieutenant Governor serves as the Commissioner of Agriculture, with the Division of Agriculture administered as part of the Department of Commerce.

This bill establishes a state Department of Agriculture, which will be headed by a commissioner appointed by the Governor. All powers and duties of the current Assistant Commissioner transfer to the Commissioner. All functions and programs in the Department of Commerce related to agriculture or rural Indiana will transfer to the new Department of Agriculture. Also, all funds and appropriations to the existing Division of Agriculture transfer to the new agency. Additionally, agricultural entities are consolidated in a different title of the Indiana Code, and responsibility transfers from the existing agency to the Commissioner, including the following:

- (A) Center for Value-Added Research.
- (B) Indiana Rural Development Council.
- (C) Indiana Land Resources Council.
- (D) Indiana Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.
- (E) Mediation Program.
- (F) Promotion of Livestock Shows.
- (G) Promotion of Foreign Markets for Agricultural Products.
- (H) Aquaculture.
- (I) Inspections of Grain Moisture-Testing Equipment.
- (J) Rural Development Program and Fund.
- (K) Indiana Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Commerce; Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Purdue University.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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